This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office

Action dated 7 July 2004. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 8 are

now amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed

that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their

recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR

§ 1.83(a) for not showing the "first quick-release joint and second quick-release

joint" recited in Claim 8. The objection is obviated by the amendments now

incorporated into Claim 8.

The Examiner also objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for <sup>c</sup>

not showing the check valves (17, 18 mentioned at page 8 of the Specification, for

example). Such check valves, however, are in fact clearly shown in the Drawings.

Accordingly, the Examiner acknowledged that the objection was set forth in error

in a telephone communication with the undersigned Attorney on 22 September

2004. The Examiner in that telephone communication directed the undersigned

Attorney to disregard this objection and to note as much in the response.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35

U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point

out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the

invention. More specifically, the Examiner found objectionable the word

Page 7 of 8

MR1683-492

Serial Number: 10/642,726

Reply to Office Action dated 7 July 2004

"divided" in Claims 1 and 8, and the word "firth" in Claim 2. The Examiner stated that a certain use of the term "the" in each of the Claims 1 and 8 was not supported by sufficient antecedent basis.

As mentioned, Claims 1, 2, and 8 are now amended by this Amendment. It is believed that such amendments obviate the Examiner's formal concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE

Jun Y. Lee

Registration #40,262

Dated: 9/27/2004

Suite 101 3458 Ellicott Center Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410)465-6678